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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,585	10/09/2003	Dzung H. Nguyen	400.262US01	9768
27073	7590	05/03/2005	EXAMINER	
LEFFERT JAY & POLGLAZE, P.A. P.O. BOX 581009 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458-1009			HOANG, HUAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,585

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN, DZUNG H.

Examiner

Huan Hoang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 12-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>012604</u> . | 6) ☐ Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi et al..

Noguchi et al. discloses a method for reading/verifying a NAND flash memory array and a NAND flash memory device having all the steps and elements as recited in claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 11 as follows:

decoding an input address signal to determine which cell to select (address buffer 6, row decoder 3 and column decoder 5, Fig. 1);

biasing the select gate drain and select gate source lines (SSL and SGL, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8) in order responsive to a position of the selected cell in the column (selected cell M0 in Fig. 8, SSL is biased before GSL, Fig. 7 and column 14, lines 52-58);

wherein the select gate drain and source lines are biased at a voltage substantially equal to 4.5V (column 2, line 29 and column 18, line 65);

wherein if the selected cell is at the first end (M0), biasing the select gate drain line (SSL) prior to biasing the select gate source line (GSL);

a select gate source line (GSL, Fig. 8) coupled to a source control transistor (S2) at a source end of the column of cells;

a select gate drain line (SSL, Fig. 8) coupled to a drain control transistor (S1) at a drain end of the column of cells, the select gate drain line capable of turning on the drain control transistor prior to the source control transistor when a selected cell is within a predetermined number of cells (one cell) of the drain control transistor;

a bit line BL; and

a source line SL.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6-9, and 12-20 are allowed.
4. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 6-9 and 12-20 recite the following limitations that are not found in the prior art:

biasing wordlines to unselected cells in the column at a voltage substantially equal to 4.5V and a wordline to the selected cell at a voltage substantially equal to 0V.

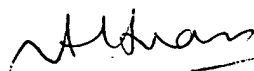
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if the selected cell within a predetermined range of the source end of the column, biasing the select gate source line prior to biasing the select gate drain line.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1779. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho can be reached on (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Huan Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

HH
4/28/05.